

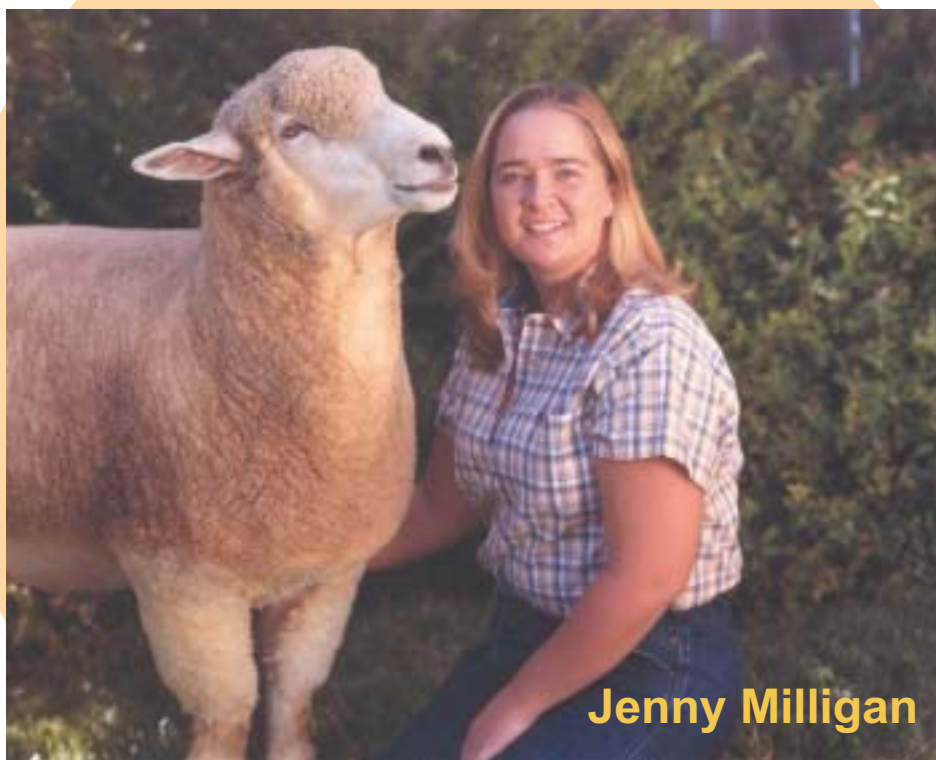
# Missouri

August 2002

## FFA Today

### Wonders of Wool

By Erica Coble



Jenny Milligan

Wool is a product produced in all 50 states of our nation and FFA members across the state work hard to market this valuable product. Jenny Milligan, Hamilton, has been a part of her family's sheep operation since she was born, receiving her first ewe at the age of eight.

"My dad got sheep when he was 16 years old, so I always said that I was just born into it. But, it has been a great experience and I wouldn't trade the opportunity to raise sheep," says Milligan.

Milligan has expanded her herd since she was eight years old, to include over 20 ewes by the time she reached high school. Her hard work and experience paid off this April, when she was named the state winner in the Sheep Production-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award. Her award-winning SAE project will have the opportunity to compete with

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**W**hat does your most comfortable blanket, favorite baseball hat, and the pair of socks you love to wear have in common? Chances are they are made from wool. Unless you raise sheep, you may not realize the benefits wool brings to us every day and the importance of the wool industry in America and right here in Missouri.

### Did You Know?

*Missouri FFA membership reached a historical record high in 2001-02.*  
**20,767 members**

# Highlights from Heather

**G**reetings Missouri FFA members. It's only been a few months since the State FFA Convention and I am so incredibly thankful to you, the members, for the amazing welcome you have extended to the 2002-2003 state officer team. We are all so thankful for the opportunity to make Missouri FFA more accessible and rewarding for each and every one of you.

In March of this year I was elected as the new state officer from Area VI. This honor was a huge surprise to me. If I had been told a year ago that I would be serving as a state officer, I never would have believed it. In the spring of my junior year of high school, I met discouragement and I felt like I had failed in several areas of FFA. I was on the parliamentary procedure team that spring and we were good. Everyone in our chapter expected us to make the top four in the state, including us. We worked very hard to achieve this goal. Then, we met some setbacks. We lost a member of our team and had to find a replacement. However, we worked very hard and felt like we still had a great chance to do well at state competition. But, like many things in life, it did not turn out the way we had planned. We didn't even make it to the final four. We were all very disappointed and discouraged.

Next came our chapter officer interviews. I had served as chapter secretary the year before, and I had already been elected as Area VI Vice President. Therefore, I was pretty confident and I thought I was a good candidate for chapter president. However, I didn't have a very good interview and I was elected as the vice president. Again, I felt like I had failed.

After that string of events, I wasn't sure how my senior year of FFA was going to turn out. I had set goals and



Heather Shauck  
State President

hadn't met them. That left me wondering how I could move on to bigger and better things since I hadn't achieved what I really thought I could. Well, with the help of my advisors, my family and my friends, I was able to move on, set new goals and imagine where the FFA could take me. Now, a year later, my hard work and persistence seems to have paid off because I am beginning a wonderful year of service to the people I love the most - FFA members.

Many times in our lives situations will not turn out like we planned or hoped. But, if we are able to take our disappointments and turn them into a lesson learned, we will grow as members of this incredible organization. FFA members, take every challenge and tough situation you are faced with and learn from it. Then, imagine where this new knowledge can take you.

Charles Kettering once said, "Our imagination is the only limit to what we can hope to have in the future." If you can imagine a goal, then you can imagine a way to reach that goal. Then, reaching that goal is much closer than you think.

A year ago, I could only imagine what it would be like to serve as a state FFA officer. Through all I have learned from my previous experi-

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**2002/2003**

## State Officers

Area	Officer
6	<b>Heather Shauck - Pres.</b> Eldon FFA
1	<b>Austin Swafford - 1st V.P.</b> Savannah FFA
7	<b>Serena Ehlers - Secretary</b> El Dorado Springs FFA
	Vice Presidents
2	<b>Ashley Lyon</b> Norborne FFA
3	<b>Kacie Nelson</b> Macon FFA
4	<b>Lee Magruder</b> Clopton FFA
5	<b>David Swaters</b> Lakeland FFA
8	<b>Aaron Hampton</b> Hartville FFA
9	<b>Adam McGee</b> Purdy FFA
10	<b>Sarah Hodges</b> Salem FFA
11	<b>Sarah Loehr</b> St. Clair FFA
12	<b>Garret Rives</b> Woodland FFA
13	<b>Kim Robinson</b> Doniphan FFA
9	<b>Jamie Lile</b> Past President Strafford FFA

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## Calling All Speakers

Even though you're just getting your feet wet in a new school year, it's not too early to begin thinking about participating in activities. A number of state organizations are again making plans for their annual FFA speaking contests.

Missouri Farm Bureau, Missouri Institute of Cooperatives, Missouri Pork Association and Missouri Sheep Producers will each hold competition for FFA members. Area and district speaking contests will be held in October and November. Check with your FFA advisor for specific times and places. Following is a list of contacts for each contest:

**Missouri Farm Bureau:** Jack Maxwell - 573-893-1411; **Missouri Institute of Cooperatives:** Ben Griffith - 816-987-2196; **Missouri Pork Association:** Don Nikodim - 573-445-8375; and **Missouri Sheep Producers Association:** Gene Milligan - 816-583-2198.

District winners from each of these speaking contests will compete at the respective group's annual meeting for the state title. Prizes will be awarded by all organizations.

For more information about these and other speaking opportunities, contact your chapter advisor or the Missouri FFA Association at 573-751-3544.

## From Down Under

**G**'day, and greetings from the land down under! Going to town for groceries, working cattle, catching a local show, attending a game, and dining on kangaroo and baby octopus at the local Italian restaurant sounds like family life on a typical farm in Missouri, right? Okay, I agree, all except for the kangaroo and octopus part. I have just described life in Australia as part of my FFA international experience.

After applying to the National FFA Organization earlier this year, I was accepted for the Australian Homestay Program. This one month program includes tours in Melbourne and Sydney, each lasting a few days, and a nearly 3 week stay with a host family on their farm. Back in America, I met up with a fellow FFA member named Jenna from Minnesota with whom I would travel to Australia. Once we arrived in Melbourne we met up with our Australian contacts and a few 4-H members, we began touring the large city. We dined at local pubs and bistros, toured the large zoo, bargained with traders at the open-air Queen Victoria Market, and shopped in downtown Melbourne.

We spent quite a few hours in training and briefing, but I've enjoyed everything.

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By Jamie Lile  
Past State President

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# Making A Difference

By Sarah Loehr  
State V.P., Area 11

I never expected my life was going to change so much that day.

In kind of a slump, I didn't really want to get up and get involved. So, when I awoke the morning of the Area 11 Greenhand Conference, I wasn't that excited but I went anyway. The day got better once I arrived at the conference.

The Conference itself was good, but honestly it wasn't the most im-



portant part of my day. The experience that changed my life was after the Conference had ended and everyone was boarding the buses to go home. As FFA members boarded our bus, the roll was taken.

To set the scene for you, 50 freshman and 12 officers got on that bus in early September. We were all hot and irritable as we waited for our advisor to get back on the bus. In response, I stood up and called for everyone to be

quiet. Surprisingly, they all listened as I suggested we sing a song. So, with a little help from my fellow officers the bus was filled with a not so good rendition of Mary Had A Little Lamb.

As I looked around and saw all the smiling faces, I realized that I could change lives by being there and being a positive influence on others - despite the challenge of the day's conditions.

You, too, can make a difference in the lives of others on any day, in any given situation.



# Finding Your Niche

By Lee Magruder  
State V.P., Area 4

Just like everyone else, I have participated in many different organizations and sports throughout high school. I played ball; I was involved with FCCLA, FFA and FBLA. As I dove into each, I would soon find my niche that would lead me to success and help pave the way to my future career.

The night after I got home from area officer interviews my sophomore year, I came home to see my mother waiting up for me. It was really late and she had to go to work early the next morning. Still, she had waited up to see how I fared in the interviews. "So, Lee, how did you do," my mother quizzed me.

Mom told me that after two years in FFA she was able to see what the organization had done for me and how far she thought it would take me in life. She told me that night the same thing her father had told her

when she was not much older than I was. We all have our niche in life, and Mom said in that perspective that I sure had found mine. I was into FFA and into learning about agriculture. In finding my niche, I have also discovered a career path to follow my agricultural experiences.

By setting my goals when I was a Greenhand and following through on every commitment I was able to find my niche. I was able to accomplish everything I ever wanted to accomplish during my four years in high school. I was a chapter officer, a speaker and went on to be an area and now a state officer. All of my goals were set my freshman year on a little index card my Ag Advisor gave us. He always told us to carry that card in our wallets or purses and every time that we accomplished one of our goals to cross it off our list and then push for the next one. I have



now accomplished every goal I had set on that list.

As we start a new school year, let me challenge you to write down your goals on an index card. Carry it with you and mark them off the list as you accomplish each one.

Your first step to success begins with setting a goal and working toward achieving it!



# Where Dreams Come True

*Contributed by Kimberly Allen,  
Missouri State Fair*

What started as a dream in December of 1998 will be a this month as a new climate-controlled FFA Building on the Missouri State Fairgrounds is unveiled. Missouri FFA has had a steady increase in membership the

around 80 Agricultural Education teachers assist with all the various competitions.

Lowell Mohler, Missouri Director of Agriculture and Chair of the Missouri State Fair Commission, says, "As with any successful project, it has

making this building become a reality by raising several thousands of dollars for the building's construction through a variety of projects. Terry Heiman, Director Agricultural Education Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, says,



last 14 years and now boasts 22,000 active members. This positive growth has put a strain on the present building FFA occupies on the Fairgrounds.

The seed for the idea of a new FFA Building on the Fairgrounds was planted in 1998 and took root in January 2001 when Farm Credit Services made a major financial pledge toward the project. In June 2001, MFA Inc. and MFA Oil came on board with generous pledges.

FFA's mission is dedicated to making a positive difference in young people's lives by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The Missouri State Fair is the perfect venue for FFA members to lead, grow and learn.

At the 2001 Missouri State Fair, FFA youth from across the state had 7,707 entries in various competitions. For example, 69 schools had 503 entries in the Ag Mechanics competition and 77 schools had 1,891 entries in the Field Crops competition. Approximately 15 to 20 Area and State FFA officers manage the FFA building every day of the Fair and

taken many dedicated and enthusiastic individuals and companies to bring the FFA Building to this point. Nip Neidert has been instrumental in helping us get the word out. We really appreciate Farm Credit Services, MFA Inc. and MFA Oil for pledging their lead gifts. With the support from FFA members and others, we will have a new FFA Building for our 100th Fair in August of 2002."

The 7,500 square foot building will include exhibit space and a central location in relation to the Swine and Sheep pavilions. It will be insulated, air conditioned, and heated and the location will allow Ag Mechanics exhibits to be located at the same site as the FFA building. It also will have a 10' covered overhang along the full length of the back of the building for Field Crops and small Ag Mechanics entries. But perhaps the best feature the building offers is its availability to the FFA throughout the year for Area and District FFA and MVATA activities.

The 270 FFA Chapters across Missouri have also been committed to

"We are very excited to be involved with this project. It will be a wonderful facility for FFA members to utilize during the Fair and throughout the year."

All contributors will receive recognition inside the building. A ribbon cutting is being planned for Thursday, August 15 during the 2002 Missouri State Fair. The Fair is scheduled to run August 8-18 in Sedalia.

Any company, group or individual interested in obtaining additional information or in making a donation should contact their local high school FFA Advisor, Terry Heiman at 573-751-3544 or Jim Bellis, Supervisor Agricultural Education Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, at 417-678-5467.

## Thank You Missouri State Fair Building Contributors!

# Wonders of Wool

Continued from Page A

other state winners this summer as they vie for the National Sheep Production Proficiency Award title.

Milligan recognizes the importance of wool in the sheep industry. She raises Corriedale, Columbia, and Rambouillet, all breeds of sheep that are known for high quality wool. Milligan primarily markets her wool to spinners and has won several awards at the Missouri State Fair for her quality fleece. She has won Champion and Reserve Champion Fleece numerous times.

"Right now the market for wool is not very strong, so you have to work harder to market your product," explains Milligan.

Despite the challenges the wool market is facing, Milligan is hopeful that a section in the new Farm Bill designed to award sheep producers

LDP (Loan Deficiency Program) payments for high quality wool will help turn things around. The "Wool and Mohair" section of the Farm Bill can be viewed through the USDA's website at [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov).

Like Milligan, Ash Grove FFA member, Phillip Irwin has grown up with sheep. He inherited an interest for sheep from his older brother and they have become a major part of his SAE for FFA. Irwin and his family travel to shows across the state and to the State Fair to exhibit his livestock. Corriedale and Natural Colored sheep are the two primary breeds of sheep that Irwin raises.

"When the going gets tough, the tough get going" is a phrase that describes Irwin's ability to successfully market his wool. When the market wasn't providing the prices that he needed for his wool, he decided to take an alternative route.

"The commercial price for wool was close to nothing, so we decided to try marketing a few fleeces on the Internet through E-Bay. The effort proved to be tremendously successful and we are able to obtain a much higher price for our wool now," comments Irwin.

Spinners and people who enjoy crafts commonly purchase Irwin's wool. He explains that wool was a



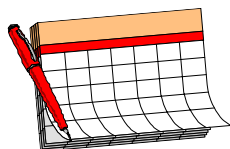
**Ash Grove FFA Member Phillip Irwin**  
*started marketing his fleeces on the Internet through E-Bay when the commercial wool market got tough. "*

very important part of the sheep industry because one has the opportunity to make anything one would like out of wool.

"Find yourself a market; there are a lot of ways out there that you can find a niche market for wool. Look for customers that want your fleeces and consistently like what you put out. That's when you find success in the market, when you can consistently sell your products," advises Irwin.

Next time you curl up in your favorite blanket, think about all of the products that wool helps to produce and the FFA members in Missouri who play an important role in that process.

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# FFA Calendar

## August

- 8-18 MO State Fair - Sedalia
- 13 SEMO District Fair  
Livestock Registration  
DUE

## September

- 5 MU Hundley-Whaley Field  
Day - Albany
- 7-14 SEMO District Fair - Cape  
Girardeau
- 12 FFA Day, SW Center -  
Mount Vernon
- 13 MU's SW Center Field Day  
- Mount Vernon
- 23 FFA Day - Mid South Fair,  
Memphis, Tenn.
- 25 Red Carpet Day - CMSU,  
Warrensburg

cont'd

- 28 SMSU/Farm Bureau  
Salute to Ag Football  
Game - Springfield

## October

- 1 MO Ag Prod. for 21st  
Century - Entry Deadline
- 3 FFA Day - MU Wurdack  
Farm - Cook Station
- 4-6 Ozark Fall Farm Fest -  
Springfield
- 7 Preview Mizzou - Columbia
- 15 NWMSU Fall Contests -  
Maryville
- 17 State Grassland Contest -  
Columbia area
- 25 American Royal Leader  
ship Seminar - Kansas City
- 30-11/2 National FFA Convention -  
Louisville, Ky.

## Highlights from Heather

Continued from Page B

ences in FFA, I was able to imagine how to achieve my goal of serving Missouri FFA members. Now, I challenge you to imagine. Imagine winning your CDE next year, passing an incredibly hard test, being elected as a chapter officer, or organizing a school can-drive for Christmas. Imagine yourself doing anything you set your mind to do. With the power of your mind and the leadership skills FFA has to offer, the goals you "imagine" will become reality.

FFA members this is the beginning of what I have imagined as a wonderful year for Missouri FFA. With the imaginations of 13 other state officers, I am confident we will make what we have imagined into reality. Now, we ask you to use your imaginations and make your year wonderful as well.

## Chapter Chatter

### Northwest District - Chillicothe

Chillicothe FFA members have landscaped a Habitat for Humanity Home in Chillicothe, planting shrubs and sowing grass. Students also assisted with the National Berkshire Hog Type Conference held in June in Chillicothe.

### Northeast District - Macon

Members of the Macon FFA Chapter recently helped construct and install a metal fence on the Macon County Fairgrounds. The chapter will also work with the local Young Farmer group in a concession stand during the Grand National Tractor Pull held in September in Macon.

### Central District - Santa Fe

FFA Members at Santa Fe are busy this month constructing a new greenhouse at the school. Students in plant science and horticulture classes will use the facility, which will also help the FFA chapter with fundraising activities.

### South Central District - Owensville

FFA members in Owensville maintain the landscaping at a half dozen different sites around the town. Members also recently helped set up the stage for the entertainers at the Gasconade County Fair. The chapter celebrates its 50th anniversary this December.

### Southeast District - Meadow Heights

Meadow Heights FFA members will hold its Food for America program as students gear up for a new school year. The chapter will also hold a cookout and hayride this fall to kick-off its annual fruit sale fundraiser.

### Southwest District - Liberal

Members of the Liberal FFA Chapter recently volunteered their time to help out at the Pork Chop Place at the Ozark Empire Fair. Students this fall will also assist the school's Parent Teacher Organization with fundraising projects. Liberal FFA has two students completing applications for National Proficiency Awards.

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## From Down Under

Continued from Page C

One of our Australian contacts was a former FFA member who is now an Australian resident. She prepared us for our host family stays and taught us some Aussie slang that has definitely been a help. I am staying with the Penrose family whose farm is located between the small towns of Harrow and Edenhope in a rural part of the state of Victoria. I have met some great blokes and sheilas since arriving here at the farm - that is guys and gals.

My host mom, Vonnie, and her children and grandchildren have made me feel like a part of their family and have eased any homesickness from being away from good ole Missouri and our family farm. Between Vonnie and the children they have around 5,000 acres. They have over 7,000 head of sheep, a small herd of Here-

ford cattle, and some cropland to raise grain for the livestock.

It is winter here, but as with any family farm there is always work to be done and someone to help. I have learned a lot about sheep and Australia, two very unfamiliar things to me, since beginning my stay. Between working cattle, marking lambs (lots of lambs), and feeding sheep, I have still had time to catch the local dinner theatre that two of my host brothers were a part of. I have attended church services with my host family and attended a hometown footy (Australian football) game.

We took trips to the Grampian Mountains and many of the local towns. I toured two local schools, Harrow and Edenhope. Harrow (K-6) was a very small country school with 6 children, one was absent that day. Edenhope had close to 300 and even offered agriculture courses to the high school students. The ag

department had its own sheep herd, greenhouse, and shop equipment; students also had their own projects.

Life at the Penrose farm has been my home away from home and I will miss the family dearly when I leave to tour Sydney. In Sydney we will tour the opera house, various museums, the aquariums, sites from the Olympics, and much more. I look forward to returning home after Sydney, but I am very thankful for the opportunity to be here in Australia.

This has been the experience of a lifetime, and I hope that you will take advantage of one of the many international opportunities offered by FFA and apply now for a trip next summer or maybe an extended stay during the school year. You will not regret it! With fundraising, work, and saving you can be on your way to experience agriculture in another country.

Farm Credit  
Services  
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